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*A clear Demonstration, from Points of Fact,
That the Recovery, Preservation and Improvement of Bri-
tain's share of the Trade to Africa, is wholly owing to the
Industry, Care and Application of the Royal African
Company.*

BY the Progress of our Trade to *Africa*, since the beginning of the last Century, it is evident, that the Impracticability of carrying on and pre- serving that Trade, in an open Method, was always the occasion of Estab- lishing Companies, from time to time, with exclusive Privileges, by Char- ters under the Great Seal of *England*; and that whenever Infractions were made upon those Privileges, the Trade fell always of course into Disorders.

By a Certificate from the *Custom-House*, it appears that, in full Four Years time, immediately preceding the first Charter granted by King *Charles II.* to the pre- sent Company's Predecessors, when *England* had but one Castle, called *Cormanteen- Castle*, on the *Gold-Coast*, and that the Trade to *Africa* lay open to all the People of *England*, viz. in the Years 1657, 1658, 1660, 1661. (the Registers of 1659, being burnt) all the Woolen-Manufactures Exported from *England* to *Africa*, in the aforesaid Four Years time, were only 669 *Sayes*, and 484 *Perpetts*, making in all 1153 Pieces.

By a Certificate under the Hands of 40 of the Principal Persons concern'd in the Woolen-Manufactures in *London* proper for the Trade to *Africa*, it appears that the New Manufactures of *Annabasses*, *Nicanees*, *Tapseils* and *Brawles*, were in- troduced by the *Royal-African-Company's* particular Direction and Encouragement, for the Trade to *Africa*; and that the said Company have Annually taken off great quantities of the said Goods, and thereby given Employment to above 500 Per- sons, in and about the City of *London*, for the making and dying of the said Goods.

By a Certificate under the Hands of 64 of the Principal Persons concerned in the Woolen-Manufactures in *Kidderminster* proper for the Trade to *Africa*, it ap- pears that the New-Manufactures of *Boysadoes* and *Striped Carpets* which are made in and about *Kidderminster*, in the County of *Worcester*, were introduced by the particular Directions of the *Royal-African-Company*; and that the said Company having Annually taken off great Quantities of the said Goods, have thereby given Employment to above 1000 Persons, in and about that Place, and caused an ex- traordinary consumption of *English Wool*; of which the said New-Manufactures are only made.

By another Certificate from the *Custom-House*, it appears, that in Four Years time (after the above-mention'd and other Manufactures were, by the Com- pany's particular Direction and Encouragement, brought to a staple Goodness) be- fore the Revolution, viz. in the Years 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, the Company Exported from *England* to the Coast of *Africa*, 8208 *Sayes*, 15595 *Perpetts*, 2801 *Boysadoes*, 1776 *Welsh-Plains*, 250 *Bayes*, 165 *Broad Cloaths*, 1520 *Blankets*, 600 *Yards of Flannels*, 1170 *English-Carpets*, 104 *Crapes*, 2067 fine *Annabasses*, and 69388 ordinary *Ditto*; making in all 103644 Pieces; which exceeds the former Four Years Exports (while the Trade was open, before King *Charles II.* granted an Exclusive Charter) by 102491 Pieces of Woolen-Manufactures; and bears near the same Pro- portion to the Exports which were made during the aforesaid Four Years of open Trade, as 100 does to 1; which is such an Improvement, as all the Interlopers and Pri- vate Traders from *England* to *Africa*, could never in the least pretend to have made, either before or since that time.

And lest it should be pretended that these great Numbers of Pieces of Woolen- Manufactures exported by the Company to *Africa*, might possibly amount but to a small Value; it appears by the *Custom-House* as well as the Company's Books, that their Exports in the Year 1683, amounted to the Value of 78028 *l.* 18 *s.* 0 *d.* Their Exports in 1684, amounted to 54932 *l.* 11 *s.* 7 *d.* Their Exports

in 1685, amounted to 82346 *l.* -- 1 *d.* and their Exports in 1686 amounted to 66128 *l.* 12 *d.* 3 *d.* which, in an averidge, is something more than 70000 *l.* *per Annum.*

But lest it should be pretended here likewise, that the Exports of these Four Years are designedly pick'd out as the greatest which the Company ever made, while they enjoyed the Priviledges of their Charter; it may be seen by the same Books, whether we look backward or forward, till the Revolution, that their Exports in the Year 1682 immediately preceeding the said Four Years, amounted to 89616 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.* and that their Exports in the Year 1687, immediately succeeding the said Four Years, amounted to 77695 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.* either of which far exceeds what the Company say their Exports were usually in an Averidge: which is a demonstration that they do not swell up their Computations at random, to impose upon the Nation, (as the Separate Traders do) but keep always within Compass.

In those days, the Company being intire Masters of the Trade, had such a distinct and uniform view thereof, that they always proportioned their Exports to the vend which they found for the same on the Coast of *Africa*; and as they could improve the one, so they did enlarge the other; with a due regard always to the general Interest of this Kingdom and the Plantations, as well as to their own particular Advantage: For it cannot be disputed but that as they were the first Introducers and Encouragers of the Woolen-Manufactures here proper for the Coast of *Africa*, so they gave better Prices for the same to the Manufacturers, than the Private Traders have done ever since: And as they then commanded the Markets on the Coast of *Guinea*, by getting at least *Cent. per Cent.* advance on these Manufactures, and purchasing the best *Negroes*-Slaves, for 3 *l.* or 3 *l.* 10 *s.* at most, *per Head*; and the other Products of *Africa* Proportionally; so it is past Dispute that they sold these Slaves again in the Plantations from 13 *l.* to 16 *l.* *per Head*; as appears by the Accounts of their Sales for many Years together, and by the living Testimonies of Masters of Ships who served the Company at that time.

Moreover the Company in those Days, imported not only great Quantities of Camwood, Elephants-Teeth, Wax, and other Goods from the Coast of *Africa*, to be manufactured here; but likewise as much Gold as coin'd several Hundred Thousand Guineas, in the Tower of *London*; whereas ever since the Trade has been laid open in 1697. The Company and Separate Traders have not coined 20000 Guineas in Ten Years time together.

Yea further it is already made sufficiently evident to the Honourable House of Commons, that the Company have been at a continued vast Charge and Expence in the Purchasing, Building, Mantaining and Repairing Forts, Factories and Settlements on the Coast of *Africa*, in the making and preserving Alliances with the Natives, and in struggling to preserve and improve the *British* Interest there against the Insults and undermining Practices of the *French*, *Dutch*, and all other Forreign Competitors whatsoever, ever since their first Establishment to this Hour; so that they have, even almost to a wonder, born the heavy Burden of preserving that Trade to the Nation, without having had the Benefit of their Charter ever since the Revolution; but on the contrary met with greater Discouragements, both at home and abroad, than they are now willing to express.

All the aforesaid particulars are such positive points of Fact, and demonstrable Truths; that, upon due enquiry and examination, it is not in the power of Malice it self to overturn or confute any one of them.

And now since it is plainly evident that the Company, with a small Joint-Stock, under one uniform Management, have done so great things for their own and this Nation's Credit and Interest, while they enjoyed the exclusive Priviledges of their Charter; any reasonable Person may easily judge to what a vast degree they might have raised and extended that Trade, to the general Advantage of this Kingdom; (when, by the Trade it self, their Capital-Stock was very greatly encreased) had they not been interrupted in their Progress, yea and in a manner quite suppress, by the infractions of Private Traders, and the fatal Consequences of divided and interfering Interests among our selves, both at home and abroad.

Then let us suppose that the Interlopers or Separate-Traders, (who make such a mighty bustle now) had found the state of the Trade to *Africa*, in the same Condition

dition, and under the same Circumstances it was in, before the *Royal-African-Company*, and their Predecessors, were established with exclusive Privileges, by King *Charles II. viz.* without any Forts or Castles on the *Gold-Coast*, (except *Cormanteen-Castle*, now possessed by the *Dutch*) without any Alliances or Confederations with the Natives; without Factories or Correspondents in the several Ports of Trade along that Coast; without having any sortable Cargoes from hence, proper for that Trade, but what must have been first brought hither from *Holland*; and without the Nation's having any true Knowledge or Experience of the Nature and Circumstances of that Trade, or indeed any great Humour or Inclination to prosecute it; except in so far as the King and some few particular Persons had then a mind to encourage and protect any Society that would undertake to raise a Joint-Stock for carrying it on, chiefly with the view of supplying the Plantations with *Negroes*, and to prevent the depopulating of his Majesty's other Dominions, by carrying too many Servants from hence: In that Case, what would have become of *Britain's* Share of the Trade to *Africa*; if that Trade had been still left open, without this or any other such Company's being ever establish'd, and these new Separate Pretenders left at their Liberty to trade thither, or not, as they pleased? Why truly, the Case is very obvious, and the Answer is plainly this; We should, by this time, have had the very same access to the *Gold-Coast* of *Africa*, that we have to the *Spice-Islands* in *Asia*; and the Trade to *Africa*, had been irrecoverably lost to this Nation; without ever knowing, or having so much as a just notion of the value of what we had lost. And even as it is, were it not for the Books, Records, and regular Correspondences of the *Royal-African-Company*, and the experience of several Persons concerned in it, both abroad and at home; the Nation would be, as yet, in profound ignorance of the true Nature and State of that Trade; nor could any tollerable Account thereof be given, even at this time, for the information of either House of Parliament.

But so it is that, for rescuing this Trade out of the hands of the *Dutch* (who, before the *Royal-African-Company* was established, were in a manner the only considerable Traders to *Guinea*) and for preserving and improving the same to a National Advantage, the Company have, with much Industry and Application, and at a very great Charge and continued Expense, Purchased, Built, Mantain'd and Repaired, from time to time, several considerable Forts and Settlements, on the Coast of *Africa*; made and renewed, as occasion required, several Alliances and Confederations with the Natives; introduced, directed and encouraged the making of fundry new Manufactures in *England*, proper for the Trade to *Africa*, which the Company were, at their first setting up, forced to buy from *Holland*, viz. *Leyden-Sayes*, *Scarlet-Cloaths*, *Fustians*, *Knives*, *Muskets*, *Boysadoes*, *Annabasses*, &c. have likewise occasioned the Natives of *Africa*, to take and consume several Woolen and other Manufactures of *England*, which were never sent to *Guinea* before the Company was establish'd; and in a word have, even under the pressure of all the complicated Difficulties and Discouragements which they met with, these many Years past, struggled to preserve that valuable Trade to the Nation; until that they have an opportunity of laying their Case and Grievances now before the Parliament, and see what the Wisdom of the Parliament may think fit to do therein.

Now let the Separate-Traders pretend what they will, 'tis most certain that, ever since the Trade to *Africa* has been laid open in 1697, all their Trade, to a mere Trifle, has been confined to the *Gold-Coast*; and that too, within the influence of the Company's Forts and Castles; otherways the Natives could not have turned the Slavery upon us, so much as they have done; by depretiating our Goods, and advancing the Prices of Slaves, to a most intollerable degree: And how much soever the Private Traders may seem to slight the Company's Forts; that's but looking one way and rowing another; For if they speak their Minds plainly, it will be found that they slight these Forts merely with Design (if they could compass their ends with the Parliament) to get the Property of them, for little or nothing, to themselves: and if they are not stupidly infatuated, they must needs know that if we had not had any Forts on that Coast, all this time, the Natives durst not have either traded with the *English* Company or Separate Traders.

As to any Trade that the Separate Traders pretend to have had on the *Quaqua*, *Callabar*, or *Angola-Coasts*, where the Company have no Forts, there's too much ground to suspect that the most of their Expeditions along these Coasts deserved some other Name.

That the Separate Traders Exports, and the Numbers of *Negroes* carried by them to the Plantations, are not the same as they pretend, will be made evident to a Demonstration; For their Computations are grossly erroneous. But whatever their Exports may have been, it can easily be demonstrated that, if all the Exports to *Africa*, since the Trade was laid open in 1697, had been under one intire Interest and uniform exclusive Management, at least the same Numbers of *Negroes* might have been purchased that really have been; and instead of 1000000^l. value directly returned of *African* produce, such as Gold &c. since that time, these Returns might probably have amounted to 8 or 9000000^l. so that it may be truly said, that the Nation has lost so much, by not having the Trade settled on a fixed and solid Constitution all this time. Which will appear to be no groundless suggestion, if it be considered what the Company's Imports of Gold, &c. have been, when they had the Trade exclusive.

In respect of all which it is not doubted but that, in settling the Constitution of the Trade to *Africa*, the Honourable House of Commons will, in their great Wisdom and Justice, have an equitable Regard to the Company's great Sufferings upon so National an Account, as well as to their Interest and Property on the Coast of *Africa*; as being evidently both the real Founders and Preservers of that Trade to this Nation.

Note, The Company refers, for further Particulars, to the FIRST and SECOND PARTS of the printed REFLECTIONS upon the Constitution and Management of the Trade to Africa, &c.

Note, The many Scandalous Falsties, and Grossly Erroneous Computations, contain'd in a Scurrilous Libel, call'd Remarks on the said REFLECTIONS, will be exposed in some few Days time.

A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION,

That the Recovery, Preservation and Improvement of the Trade to *Africa*, is owing to the Industry and Care of the Royal-African-Company.

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